



Child Protection Policy

Lead Person : Assistant Head – 10-14
Governing Body Committee : Health and Safety

The Crypt School full recognises its responsibilities for Child Protection.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. There are five main elements to our policy :

- Ensuring we practice safe recruitment by checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
- Raising awareness of child protection issues and equipping children with the skills needed to keep them safe – including e-safety and safe internet use.
- Developing and then implementing procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases, of abuse.
- Establishing a safe environment in which children can learn and develop.

We recognise that because of the day to day contact with children, school staff can be well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse. The school will therefore :

- Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to. All Pupils will have at least twice daily contact with a tutor who will act as their advocate and who will monitor their well-being.
- Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.
- Include opportunities in the Personal Education curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

We will follow the procedures set out in the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board Handbook and take account of any guidance issued by the Government and other relevant agencies:

- Ensure we have a designated teacher for child protection who has received appropriate training and support for this role. In addition at least two other member of staff have received Child Protection Training
- Ensure we have a nominated governor responsible for child protection.
- Ensure every member of staff, volunteer and governor knows the name of the designated teacher responsible for child protection and their role.

- Ensure all staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities in being alert to the signs of abuse and responsibility for referring any concerns to the designated teacher responsible for child protection.
- Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibility placed on the school and staff for child protection by setting out its obligations in the school prospectus.
- Monitor and report if there is an unexplained absence of more than two days of a pupil who is known to be “at risk”.
- Develop effective links with relevant agencies and co-operate as required with their enquiries regarding child protection matters including attendance at case conferences
- Keep written records of concerns about pupils and ensure all records are kept securely; separate from the main pupil file, and in secure locations.
- Develop and then follow procedures, where an allegation is made against a member of staff or volunteer.
- Ensure safe recruitment practices are always followed.

We recognise that children who are abused or witness violence may find it difficult to develop a sense of self worth. They may feel helplessness, humiliation and in some cases a sense of blame. The school may be the only stable, secure and predictable element in the lives of children at risk. When at school their behaviour may be challenging and defiant or they may be withdrawn. The school will endeavour to support the pupil through :

- The content of the curriculum.
- Access to a School Counsellor and School Nurse
- An ethos which promotes a positive, supportive and secure environment and gives pupils a sense of being valued.
- Behaviour and anti-bullying policies which give support to vulnerable pupils.
- Listening to pupil and letting them know that some behaviour is unacceptable and they are valued and not to be blamed for any abuse which has occurred.
- Liaison with other agencies that support the pupil, such as Social Services, Child and Adult Mental Health Service, Education Welfare Service and Educational Psychology Service.
- Ensuring that, where a pupil with a Child Protection Plan leaves, their information is transferred to the new school immediately and that the child’s social worked is informed.

AHC – March 2010

Ratified by Governors – Approved by Full Governors – 4th April, 2011